(b) Yes, Sir. The Group 'A' Junior scale and Group 'B' Assistant officers' posts are interchangeable.

(c) As the posts are interchangeable, no officiating allowance/pay is admissible.

(d) The allotment of a lower scale to Group 'B' officers is based on the specific recommendations of the IIIrd Pay Comm. contained in Chapter 13 Volume I of their Report. A higher scale has been allotted to junior scale Group 'A' officers to attract candidates of right calibre. For a junior scale officer this post is essentially for undergoing in-service training and for acquiring experience to enable him to occupy higher posts in the cadre. The Fourth Pay Commission, after considering this, have not recommended parity in scale for these two categories of officers.

Junior Scale and Assistant Grade posts on Indian Railways

2682. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Junior Scale and Assistant Grade posts in the Indian Railways as on 31-3-1989, department-wise and zone-wise;

(b) number of Juinor Scale officers working against Junior scale posts as on 31-3-1989, department-wise and zone-wise; and

(c) what are the total vacancies in these posts as on 31-3-1989 department-wise and Railway-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Recruitment of group 'A' officers in Indian Railways

2683. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Group 'A' officers recruited in the Indian Railways each year since 1985 department-wise; and

(b) what is the number of Group 'B' officers promoted to Group 'A' in the Indian Railways each year since 1985 department-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 160].

Dates of completion of Departmental Promotion Committee proceedings

2684. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates of the completion of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proceedings of Group 'B' officers for induction in Group 'A' each year, department-wise; and

(b) the actual dates of the completion of DPC proceedings each year since 1980, department-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The dates of the completion of Departmental Promotion Committee proceedings for induction of Group 'B' officers in Group 'A' are not fixed.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 16].

Appeal to Government of Forward Seamen's Union of India, Calcutta

2685. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Forward Seamen's Union of India, Calcutta has repeatedly appealed to his Ministry not to give or allot Home